



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**August 2018**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



**Christening of Grace Liu**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## **Minister**

**Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

**Email: [tokerau.j@gmail.com](mailto:tokerau.j@gmail.com)**

**Ph: 478 6180**

## **Administrator**

**Jo Wyman-Macer**

**Office hours:**

**Wednesday via phone and email**

**Thursday—Friday 9am to 1pm**

**Ph: 478 6180**

**Email: [office@bayspc.nz](mailto:office@bayspc.nz)**

## **Street Address**

**10 Hastings Rd**

**Mairangi Bay**

## **Vehicle Access**

**Between 8 & 10 Penzance Rd**

## **Postal Address**

**PO Box 65299**

**Mairangi Bay**

## **Website**

**[www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz](http://www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz)**

## **Parish Clerk**

**Stewart Milne**

**Ph: 478 5786**

**Mobile: 027 293 8499**

## **Treasurer, property and finance**

**George Wyman**

**Ph 478 6411**

## **Support worker for the elderly**

**Margaret Pont**

**027 225 8893**

# REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **GIRLS' BRIGADE** - Tuesdays during School term. Church Hall 6.30-8pm.  
Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603
- **LADIES HOME GROUP** - Wednesdays 10.15am.  
Contact Heather on 479-8822 for further details.
- **GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**  
Wednesdays Church Hall. 1.00-2.00pm  
Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212
- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**  
1pm—2.30pm Wednesdays New Meeting Room 2.  
Further Information Stewart Milne 478 5786
- **HOUSE GROUP**  
Wednesdays 7.30pm at the Shadbolts  
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.
- **LUNCHEON GROUP**  
2nd Thursday of month 12-2pm in Church hall  
Further information Jill Wyman 021 066 1059.
- **DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**  
Thursdays 10am-2pm Mairangi Bay Church Hall  
For further information Stewart Milne Ph 478 5786.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**  
Meeting 3rd Friday 6.30pm shared meal.  
Venue circulates. For further information contact Jenni & Allan Jones Ph 478 5694.
- **MAINLY MUSIC**  
Fridays during the school term. Church Hall 10-11am



# AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Kia orana and greetings.

A couple of Sundays ago, I spoke about taking our part in the dance of God's mission. We are participators, no merely observers, in the dance of God's love with others. As dance involves guidance through choreography and practice, I used a prayer to try and convey this point. I used it some time ago but can't remember where I got it from. It is entitled "GUIDANCE" and since many on the congregation commented on how helpful they found it, I offer it for our newsletter.

When I meditated on the word GUIDANCE, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word GUIDANCE.

When I saw "G," I thought of God, followed by "u" and "i." God, you, and I dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

Let us pray  
Giver of life, Creator of all that is lovely,  
teach us to sing the words of your song;  
we want to feel the music of living  
and not fear the sad songs,  
but from them make new songs  
composed of both laughter and tears.  
Teach us to dance to the sounds of your  
world and your people,  
we want to move in rhythm with your plan;  
help me to try to follow your leading,  
to risk even falling,  
to rise and keep trying  
because you are leading the dance. Amen.

# UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the July meeting of Parish Council we:

- spent time on pastoral matters with a particular focus on the families of those who have died over the last few weeks . Tokerau led us in prayer
- received the Church and Community Report from Erica which provided an update on the “Thinking Outside the Cell” community discussion series which Erica is organising for the 4 Saturdays in August. Presbyterian Support has now agreed to assist with the publicity and has made a donation. This is shaping up to be a very thought provoking series of meetings. Dr Workman who will be the keynote speaker for the first meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August will also be preaching on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- discussed our participation in the pre Christmas carol singing and picnic which is being promoted by the Mairangi Bay Business Association. We are having to select 10 minutes worth of carols which Norma is finalising for us
- gave further consideration to the budget for the year commencing 1 July and decided to recommend it to the AGM which will be held after the 10am service on Sunday 26 August.
- set the date for the mid-week communion service to be followed by lunch for the elderly as well as for those unable to get along regularly on a Sunday. These services are recommended in terms of spiritual uplift and social interaction with those who you may not have seen for some time. This service will be held at 1130hrs on Tuesday 7 August. Those needing transport to let Norma or me know.
- spent some time discussing committee membership for the coming year. All of our committees would benefit from some new members. Committee meetings are arranged to work in with the availability of members. Committee involvement is a good way to participate in the running of our church. If you are interested in learning what the various committees do and how often they meet with a view to joining in please approach one of the convenors who are:
  - Ian Watson for both the Worship and Christian Education Committees
  - Erica Brash for Church and Community
  - George Wyman for Property and Finance
  - Karen Ruffell for Fellowship

If you are willing to join a committee you can be sure of a warm welcome.

**Stewart Milne**

## A SAD TIME

Over the past months our parish and especially the Castor Bay contingent has had to farewell many who have had a long connection with the parish. We have given thanks for their lives and their inspiration to us and we miss their physical presence. Our prayers and ongoing support are with their dear families:

Nancy Cleary Jean Watt Joy Weatherup  
Marjorie Trotter Malcolm Henderson  
Marjorie Warwick Merle Wildman

*Rest in Peace*



*Angel, Tangi  
and Manu*

*Mid-winter Christmas  
Lunch, Montrose*



## THINKING OUTSIDE THE CELL SERIES

Please see the advert on the next page.

For catering purposes it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you register for this event.

A stylized illustration of a person with orange skin and a blue shirt, looking out from behind vertical prison bars. The person's hands are visible, gripping the bars. The background is a light blue sky with a small window visible through the bars.

# Thinking

## Outside the Cell

**A series of community conversations to look at prisons within the criminal justice system through fresh eyes.**

Mairangi and Castor Bay Parish in Association with Presbyterian Support Northern

**When: Saturdays in August 12.30 pm to 2 pm.**

**Where: Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Hall**

(Vehicle entry beside 10 Penzance Road)

- August 4** Do Prisons work? Dr Kim Workman  
**August 11** What about the Victims of Crime? Colin Rose  
**August 18** Crime and Families Alistair Houston,  
Family Works Northern  
**August 25** Rehabilitation and Reintegration  
Mike Williams, Chief Executive, Howard League

**Suggested Donation \$10 per session**

**For catering purpose please RSVP to**

**office@bayspc.nz (preferred) or Phone 09 478 6180**

**Soup, rolls and a cuppa provided.**



# KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

## The Christian Story?

A friend who is a well-read theologian responded as follows to an email I sent him about his recent book.

"I sometimes think the church is the greatest obstacle to the gospel in the modern world... Yet without the church, who would pass on the core message of the gospel, which potentially has so much to contribute to a Trumpy-turvy world?"

My friend is responding to the Christian story which many people accept which goes like this with minor variations.

*"God is up in heaven beyond the bright blue sky. He has human like characteristics. He made human beings in six days in the garden of Eden. Humans disobeyed God and were banished from the Garden. Humankind is tarnished by sin (disobedience to God) which is transmitted by sexual reproduction- original sin. Human disobedience (sins) got worse and worse until God intervened and sent his son Jesus, born of a virgin (so that he was not contaminated by human sin) to tell people how to live.*

*Human beings did not like his teaching of loving your neighbour (including your enemies) and the way he questioned what they believed to be God given laws. So, they killed Jesus by crucifixion. However, it was God's will that Jesus suffered and died, as a sacrifice to appease God's anger at our sins. Jesus rose from the dead coming out of the tomb where he was buried and walked the earth and met his disciples as a physical resurrected body for some time, until he ascended into heaven. Those who believe in Jesus are saved, that is they are rescued from eternal torment in a burning hell, and instead go to heaven to be with God for eternity."*

There are some variations to this story. For example, some believe that Jesus sought to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, others believe that Jesus was teaching that God's kingdom in heaven would happen in some future age. Yet others believe a bit of both those.

Some believe that when those who are saved are in heaven they will have the satisfaction of seeing those who are not being tormented in hell.

It is a ghastly story. God's character is portrayed as needing to be appeased by the sacrificial death of his son. We call that filicide (from the Latin *filius* meaning

*son). Obviously, in this story, God has an anger problem and behaves in unethical ways. This God is hardly a model for human behaviour and certainly does not accord with Jesus' teaching about the way we are to behave like God - to be perfect or whole like God. (Matthew 5:48)*

If you think this story sounds Medieval, you are right. It started with Augustine of Hippo's (354 -430 CE ) interpretation of the Biblical story of original sin. Dante ( c. 1265 – 1321 CE) an Italian poet, supplied the popular concepts of hell. Anselm of Canterbury (1034-1109 CE) created the "satisfaction theory of atonement." He argued we had acted against God's honour by sinning and the only way this could be rectified was by the shedding of blood and death. Jesus is offered instead, and so God's honour is satisfied. Later during the reformation, the language was changed to "substitutionary atonement." The punishment we ought to receive from God is put right by Jesus being offered instead as a substitute sacrifice in our place. This makes this understanding of Christianity a religion of an unethical, murderous God who needs to be feared.

It is very difficult to reconcile this picture of God with the one Jesus reveals. A careful reading of the Bible and its historic background does not support this story, although it can be "read into it" by a selective reading and reading it in ignorance of the culture and world view of the time.

The Jesus I have discovered over many years of reading the gospels and researching his life and times would be horrified by this story.

My friend is concerned that the church keeps perpetuating medieval ideas and interpretations of Jesus. The churches have spent a great deal of time and effort maintaining this story, even while sound thorough research over the last few hundred years, and especially the last 70 years tell a very different story.

Jesus, as the Christ has the power to transform our world, because as we "live in Christ" and as the Apostle Paul put it, "it is no longer I that lives but Christ who lives in me," we are changed people seeking to love, forgive, trust and live in hope.

If we are to reach out to our 21<sup>st</sup> century secular community, we need to go back to look at the stories of Jesus and the early Christ followers while entering their world as much as we can to retell and reform the story in 21<sup>st</sup> century language, thought forms and world view.

We have wonderful, world transforming story to tell, one which our topsy turvy world needs to hear. It is far too important to leave it in ghastly unethical medieval garb.

## **A BIG THANK YOU**

Raewyn Henderson and family wish to sincerely thank everyone for the food, flowers, cards and comforting support in the sad loss of Malcolm. A special thanks for Tokerau and family, George Watt for the music, Peter Stone for the sound system and all who provided catering and serving at the funeral.

It is very much appreciated



## **SPECIAL COMMUNION**

Our next Special Communion service for all parishioners especially those unable to attend regularly will be held on Tuesday, August 7 at 11:30 am. There will be a time of fellowship and lunch following the service .

We will provide transportation to and from the church if required. If you would like to attend, could you please let your Pastoral Visitor know or Stewart Milne 478 5786 for catering purposes by August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **"S" LUNCH**

After the AGM on the 26th of August we would appreciate if people brought a plate to share and stayed for a time of fellowship after the meeting.

## **Luncheon Group 9th August 12 – 2pm.**

The **Luncheon group** is on at the Church hall. It is held the second Thursday of every month. So please bring your lunch, have a cuppa with us and prepare to be entertained! There will be a trade table and raffles.

Gold coins donation please. Contact Jill Wyman 478 6411

*Christening of  
Grace Liu*





## **FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE**

### **Sunday 12th August.**

This popular service, initiated by Patricia Campbell many years ago, is continuing to brighten the middle of winter for you all. It's up to you all to start thinking about your favourite hymn, and to let Bronwyn Stone know what it is.

There is a box down at church, with slips of paper for you to record your favourite, or you can contact Bronwyn now. The details needed from you are :

Your name and contact phone number

The title of the hymn/First line/Number in the church Hymnary

If there is a particular tune that you like it sung to, that information would be helpful too – we'll do our best!

The TWO verses that are your favourites (Only two please, so we can accommodate as many requests as possible)

Reason why this hymn/those verses are special for you/ memories of past occasions when it was significant in your life.

Get your thinking caps on, and get in touch....

Ph 4796631 or email: [pebros@gmail.com](mailto:pebros@gmail.com)

## **QUIZ NIGHT**

Time to get your thinking hats on and start organising a team for our regular Vanuatu fundraising quiz night.

**Sunday 9 September, 5:30-7:30pm**

The price of entry will be \$15 per team.

Raffles will be sold throughout the evening.

Please bring your own drinks.

We will provide some snacks.

There will be a video on for the young kids in the lounge



# CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2018

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth activities	4.00-6.00pm	Various venue	Saturdays tba	TBC
Youth and children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour <b>478-7603</b>
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme <b>479 2212</b>
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay New Meeting Room 2.	Every Wednesday	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Ladies Home Group	10.15 am	10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay	Wednesdays	Heather Gibson <b>479 8822</b>
Luncheon Group	12.00 noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Raewyn Henderson <b>410 4423</b>
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays leading up to special services	Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Dees Social Club	10am	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Margaret Pont <b>021 670 019</b>
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt <b>479-3953</b>
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier <b>414 6321</b>
Mainly Music	10.00am-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019